



PATENT  
Docket No. 21488/04106

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of Torres

:

U.S. Serial No.: 10/707,876

:

Filed: January 20, 2004

:

For: **TUB SKIRT PANEL SYSTEM**

:

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for: (a) pending applications or (b) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the following application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120:

Serial No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding any document, publication or other information for which a date is not given on the attached PTO-1449, Applicant(s) believe(s) the same may qualify as "prior" art to this application and should be treated accordingly, although Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to contest the prior art status of any document, publication or information, should issue arise.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):

- [ ] (a) Copy of English language version of a search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report.
- [ ] (b) Attachment entitled "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents". (See attached International Search Report).

3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) this Statement is being filed:

- [ ] (a) Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- [x] (b) Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required

certification is given below or, in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. **03-0172** for consideration of this Statement.

- [ ] (c) After the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.
- [ ] (1) The required certification is given below, or
- [ ] (2) Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. **03-0172**.
- [ ] (d) After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.
- [ ] (1) Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. **03-0172**.

4. Certification (if applicable)

- [ ] (a) The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.
- [x] (b) The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **03-0172**.

Respectfully submitted,

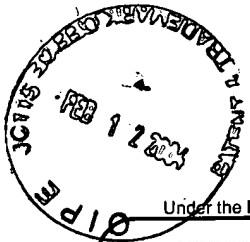
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James A. Balazs  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 47,401

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this 10th INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT is being deposited on this, the 10th day of February, 2004, with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandra, VA 22313-1450.

Joyce Ford  
Print Name/Of Person Signing This Certificate

Joyce Ford  
SIGNATURE



PTO/SB/08A (02-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet

1

of

2

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	<b>10/707,876</b>
Filing Date	<b>January 20, 2004</b>
First Named Inventor	<b>Torres</b>
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	<b>21488/04106</b>

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				<b>Application Number</b>	10/707,876
				<b>Filing Date</b>	January 20, 2004
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Torres
				<b>Art Unit</b>	
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	21488/04106

## **NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.  
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:  
**Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

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